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People increasingly back nat'l fatherland front

PROVINCES, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— Formation of the national fatherland front in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is increasingly supported by our noble compatriots due to its constructive nature and lofty objectives.

To welcome the first conference of the national and patriotic forces for making preliminary preparations for the great and historical event, grand functions and meetings were held on the occasion all over the country by our working compatriots, expressing unreserved and honest solidarity with the conference and its fundamental statement.

According to a Bakhtar report from Farah, the working inhabitants of Bala Blook in a gathering at the woleswali backed the conference of the national and patriotic forces and the fundamental statement of the conference. They expressed readiness for creation of the vast national fatherland.

The meeting was addressed by Qaium Noorzai, member of PDPA CC and RC, who spoke in detail on the role of the national fatherland front. Similarly, Farah governor and some local inhabitants of Bala Blook while speaking on the values of the front pledged cooperation for its establishment.

According to another report from Mazare Sharif, a meeting was also held on the occasion by the democratic organisation for women of Balkh province at the oil and gas gymnasium last Thursday. The meeting was addressed by secretary and some members of the democratic organisation for women of Balkh who while speaking on the importance of the national fatherland front described its role in the social, economic and political life of the people of Afghanistan as fruitful.

Similarly, the workers and employees of Helmand

Construction Unit, employees of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of National Defence and Khoshal Khan High School in a meeting sponsored by the 12th party precinct of Kabul backed the conference of the national and patriotic forces and the fundamental statement of the conference.

Bakhtar adds that the residents of Khair Khana Mena in a gathering at the hanger of the Technical Services Department of the Ministry of Mines and Industries also welcomed the conference of the national patriotic forces for preliminary preparations for establishment of the constituent congress of the fatherland front and the fundamental statement of the conference.

The gathering was addressed by some elders and party cadres who spoke on the objective of formation of the vast national fatherland front in the country.

Recalling with appreciation the positive steps taken by our revolutionary government after the new evolutionary phase of Saur Revolution one of Khair Khana elders invited the participants to resolutely struggle against the enemies of our homeland, who on the instigation of their imperialist masters kill our youth, elders, clergy, craftsmen and working compatriots. He also called on participants to cooperate with their popular government in further ensuring full security in the country.

Similar functions were held on the occasion by large number of the workers, peasants, clergy, scholars, government employees and

Kunduz craftsmen, workers, employees of the communications, transport, monopoly and customs departments and other government employees, shopkeepers and craftsmen of Herat province.

Bakhtar adds that similar functions were held on the occasion by various strata of Kunduz, Jauzjan and Takhar provinces.



Minister of Public Health, addressing the graduates of High Medical Education institute. (Photo: Bakhtar)

Congratulatory telegram

KABUL, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— On behalf of Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of PDPA CC, President of RC and DRA Prime Minister, a congratulatory telegram, addressed to Ronald Reagan, has been sent to Washington on assuming the presidency of the United States of America.

In this telegram it is hoped that during his leadership the relations between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and United States of America will turn to normal in the interest of the peoples of the two countries, world peace and detente.

High medical Institute graduates introduced

KABUL, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— The first batch of graduates of the High Medical Institute was introduced to Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim Azim, Minister of Public Health last Thursday.

Congratulating the graduates, he explained the grave duties of physicians, especially under the present situation in the country brought about following the second-phase of the Saur Revolution.

"You are facing a difficult phase i.e. serving and offering health services to the toilers of the country", he said.

Therefore, as the sacred profession of medicine requires you have to render your duties conscientiously with honesty and faithfulness according to the requirements of the country.

You have to take responsible part in treatment of needy people throughout the revolutionary and progressive Afghanistan", said the Public Health Minister.

Afterwards Dr. Zara, first deputy minister of Public Health, speaking on duties of the young doctors, who begin the grave duty of medical services in the second phase of the Saur Revolution said: "You physicians are going to serve the oppressed masses in the developing process of second phase of the Saur Revolution. I am sure that you will carry out the assigned duties without any fear and will strive for construction of a new society as a patriotic individual as you have endeavoured in acquiring medical knowledge".

The ceremony was also attended by second deputy minister of Public Health, heads of the Central Departments of that Ministry and rector of Kabul University.

At the end a graduate on behalf of others, assured the Public Health Minister and other authorities of the ministry that they will discharge their duties according to the requirements of the present conditions with honesty and patriotic spirit.

84 people have graduated from the High Medical Education Institute this year.

MEETINGS

KABUL, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— Dr. Mahrabuddin Paktiawal, first vice president of the State Planning Committee, met in his office last Thursday with Evlogui Bonev, UNDP resident representative in Kabul, discussing the UNDP assistances to Afghanistan.

Similarly, Paktiawal met with Dezzo Kiss, ambassador of the People's Republic of Hungary last Thursday, discussing expansion of economic and technical cooperations and scientific, commercial and cultural matters between the two countries.

During the meeting present were also some departmental heads of the State Planning Committee.

Revolution defence group formed

AIBAK, Jan. 22, (Bakhtar).— The militant youths of Serqa village of Samangan province formed a group for defence of revolution, expressing all-out support for defence of revolution and elimination of enemies.

In a function held last Thursday, deputy secretary to the provincial committee and in charge of its defence and justice affairs speaking on defence of the lofty ideals of the revolution said that defending of revolution is the duty of every noble and working citizen of Afghanistan.

Similarly a number of the defence group members speaking in this connection voiced full readiness for defence of the revolution and crushing of the counter-revolutionaries.

On results of Zhivkov-Ceausescu talks

SOFIA, Jan. 24, (Tass).— The People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Socialist Republic of Romania, at one with the other fraternal socialist countries and all anti-imperialist and peace-loving forces, are fully resolved to continue the struggle for deepening the process of detente, strengthening peace, security and cooperation in Europe and throughout the world, for taking effective disarmament steps. This has been emphasized in a communique, issued here on the results of talks between Todor Zhivkov, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and Nicolae Ceausescu, the General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

for the convocation of a conference on military detente and on disarmament in Europe, which would make a substantial contribution to the strengthening of peace and security on the European continent and throughout the world.

They emphasized that all-round Bulgarian-Romanian cooperation was developing and deepening on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and in the spirit of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Olof Palme on Iran-Iraq conflict

NEW YORK, Jan. 24, (Tass).—Olof Palme, the special envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for a settlement of the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, after talks with leaders of Iran and Iraq said here that both sides were increasingly becoming aware of the necessity of a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Palme said his second visit to Teheran and Baghdad had made it possible to begin discussing the fundamental principles for a comprehensive settlement of the differences. Such specific elements of the settlement as demarcation of the frontier area and also questions related to a ceasefire were considered in talks with the leaders of both countries.

US starts supplies of arms to el Salvador junta

HAVANA, Jan. 24, (Tass).— Washington has started massive supplies of arms and ammunition to the el Salvador junta, against which actions by the broad sections of the population are continuing incessantly.

According to reports reaching here, over the past twentyfour hours several U.S. "Hercules C-130" transport planes have delivered to el Salvador's airforce bases large batches of automatic rifles and machine-guns, mortars and artillery pieces as well as more than 10,000 fragmentation grenades. The supplies of arms and ammunition will be continued.

This is the way the U.S. administration intends to "defend democracy" in el Salvador, where last year alone more than 13,000 people were killed through the fault of the junta. In giving all-round assistance to the anti-national regime, Washington is fully demonstrating its real plans—to preserve at any cost its staggering positions in central America.

According to reports of news agencies, fierce fighting between detachments of the Farabundo Marti Patriotic National

Liberation Front and government troops is continuing all over that country's territory. On Thursday exchanges of fire repeatedly flared up in San Salvador on Thursday. The insurgents launched several bold attacks against the garrisons of the punitive troops. Barricades have been put up on the most important highways to prevent the dispatch of junta army units for aid to besieged garrisons.

Seminar on new teaching methods

MAZARE SHARIF, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— More than 1400 teachers from high school and school of centre and related districts of Balkh province yesterday attended a conference on new teaching methods.

The conference, held at Mazhar Cinema, was opened with recitation of few verses from the holy Koran. Following the national anthem, deputy secretary to the provincial committee elaborating on the progressive policy of the government in education sector urged the participants to pay attention to educating children of the country according to the objectives of the Saur Revolution.

Afterwards Director of Education and some teachers spoke in details on the procedure and ways of using the new teaching methods.

At the end a teacher, on behalf of others, pledged their untiring efforts in this connection.

US manoeuvres around accord with Iran

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24, (Tass).— American officials and the press are preparing the public opinion for a possibility of a revision of Washington's stand towards the accord, on the basis of which staff members of the U.S. embassy in Iran were set free. Representatives of the new administration declared that the administration might have certain reservations over the accord. They say that the administration will voice its opinion in this connection after a very thorough study of all the signed documents. They make it clear that the new administration intends to limit the sphere of implementation of the obligations undertaken.

Rumours are being circulated in the circles close to the American congress and the department of state, that the arrested Americans were allegedly "poorly treated". It is implied that Iran should bear responsibility for this. The thought is being intensively circulated in those circles that the Amer-

ican naval armada, sent to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of the seizure of American hostages, will be left there for an indefinitely long time.

Behind all this one feels pressure of powerful U.S. financial monopolistic groups which are not going to release from their hands the wealth of the Iranian people. The newspaper "Wall Street Journal", which represents their interests, has printed a strong anti-Iranian article which demanded that the new administration should annul the agreement with Iran at all.

Group of rebels crushed

in Helmand

LASHKARGAH, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— A group of rebels and murderers were crushed in Bost village of Helmand province by the armed forces and party activists last Thursday.

A provincial source said that a quantity of British weapons and leaflets, proving their connection with counter-revolutionary, were seized from these corrupt elements.

Relief supplies distributed

CHARIKAR, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— Relief supplies of the Emergency Preparedness Office of the Prime Ministry was distributed to 16 needy families of Pashian and Bazrchi villages of Parwan province. A source of that province said that the supplies includes cash, blankets, cloth, and footwears.



Part of the knitting section of the Democratic Organisation for Women.

KABUL NEW TIMES

Editorial

Best organisational form of social unity

The people of Afghanistan are continuing with their vast support for the fundamental statement made by Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC, President of the Revolutionary Council and DRA Prime Minister delivered at the conference of the national and patriotic forces for establishing the Vast National Fatherland Front in Afghanistan.

Among the many gains scored after the victory of Saur revolution especially its new evolutionary phase are the Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the preparedness made for the formation of the Vast National Fatherland Front.

There is no doubt that the Fundamental Principles which serve as temporary constitution of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan provided the people of Afghanistan with democratic rights and freedoms badly needed by the people after the despotic and irresponsible rule of Amin and his band of criminals who suppressed the patriots and the cream of the Afghan society through his policy of fear and terror. The fundamental principle supplied the people of Afghanistan with the democratic rights and freedoms because the Saur Revolution which has been staged and triumphed by the people is democratic and national in its nature guaranteeing the interests and cause of the people who constitute the base of the progressive system established in the light of the lofty aspirations of the glorious Saur Revolution.

The second most important and valuable gain of the second phase of Saur Revolution is the efforts made and the measures adopted by the party and the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to get all the people of Afghanistan united in a vast national fatherland front. The government measures adopted to hold the first congress of the vast national fatherland front have received all-out support from the entire people of Afghanistan.

The measures of the government are the manifestation of the fact that the government's power of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is based on the people's will and people's support and solidarity.

The people's support can be better achieved and won when they are united and cooperate with one another in the interest of the entire nation.

The meetings and functions reported to have been held in different parts of the country with the participation of the government officials, party members and activists, and people representing different social strata, and nationalities regardless of their race, tribe, sect, and culture, prove once again that the people are prepared to live in peace and tranquility and serve their country through direct and active cooperation with their government and party, the People's Democratic

Party of Afghanistan and the vanguard of the working class in the country, which is armed with progressive ideas and lofty aspirations for the happiness and prosperity of the people.

Admittedly, the people of Afghanistan have realised now that discord among various social strata and nationalities would serve no constructive purpose. Division among the various people, tribes, sects and social strata of a country is the most dangerous phenomena which would undermine social cohesion.

Sowing the seed of discord among the people and creating division among the various social strata and groups has in effect been the main target of the imperialist policy throughout the political history of Asian peoples. We should recall with regret that it was the policy of the British colonialism which tried to create rift and discord within the Afghan society and it was this perfidious policy which kept the different nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan separate and apart from each other. This state of affairs, of course, adversely affected the social, economic, political and cultural development of the country.

The vast national fatherland front, as expounded by Babrak Karmal, is in effect the best organisational form of the unity of all the national and democratic forces and their related groups and organisations.

The establishment of the vast national fatherland front is the need of our time and the circumstances prevailing in our country when the party and DRA government have assumed the responsibility for pushing the country forward on the road to justice, democracy and social progress with the hope to build the new society void of exploitation of man by man. It is the best instrument indeed for overcoming and solving the difficulties and problems inherited from the past feudal order which plundered the interests of the large masses of toiling people of Afghanistan.

INT'l PRESS

MOSCOW, Jan. (Tass). — "Presidents of the United States turn out to be ever more disgraceful failures, one after another", writes observer of "Literaturnaya Gazeta" Vitaly Kobyshev. He notes that the problem lies not merely in inefficiency in choosing presidents though the question of to whom, how and why the highest post in Washington's White House goes is giving ever more food for thought. "The essence, however, is that not one of the presidents of the United States of the recent time was abreast of the tasks posed in the past decades of the twentieth century to the top echelon of America, either in his practical activity or in the realisation of what is taking place", the observer stresses.

"The leaders of the United States are unable to realize that the present world is not the world that was faced by presidents Harding, Coolidge or Truman. They do not realise that everything has changed since that time and is changing ever more, while the policy of the United States at home and, particularly, on the world scene remains the same: The unchangeably imperial policy ruttled in yesterday. One is surprised at times: Is it possible to fail to realize that at things today are not what they were yesterday and that there is no doubt that they will be different tomorrow from what they are today?"

New times create new problems and require new approaches", the author writes. "And the US leaders still believe that by filling the Persian Gulf area with aircraft carriers they will decide the problems of the steady supplies to the USA of oil that does not belong to it, that by deploying great numbers of US missiles in western Europe they will divert nuclear threat from the United States, that sending weapons and military advisors to fascist Pinochet, to murderers in Salvador, the way they sent them in the past to criminal Somoza, they will manage to succeed in their futile attempts to make the time stand still, to prevent the brewing inevitable social and economic, national-political changes".

"It might seem that all this has no direct bearing on the inauguration of the new president of the United States", the newspaper's observer writes in conclusion. "But this only seems so. If the new US administration does not wish history to treat it the way it did the previous administrations, what was mentioned here should not be regarded as lecturing, but as the themes for thinking, to which one is inclined after celebration, and should be given serious thought."

HOME PRESS

The daily Heywad of last Thursday in an editorial entitled "Ever increasing support to revolutionary changes in Afghanistan" writes:

The people of Afghanistan triumphantly protect and safeguard the national and democratic revolution and its great gains. Because the Saur Revolution and its new phase entered the country into its new economic and social era. In this era the political power belongs to the people and the country's material and moral wealths are used for progress and development of the society and well-being of the toiling masses.

The imperialist, hegemonist and reactionary circles who found the revolutionary changes in our country against their colonial interests began a to-tally partial and baseless propaganda aimed at con-

fusing the public opinion. Such propaganda are continuing along with provocations and widespread interventions launched against our people and our revolution.

However, the national and democratic revolution in Afghanistan is increasingly gaining the broad support of masses of population as all the revolutionary changes in Afghanistan are taking place to the interest of people.

The criminal groups and terrorists, at the behest of their masters, who wanted to disrupt, by various means, the tranquility of our people were severely crushed as a result of fearless and valorous struggles of the brave armed forces and revolutionary combatants. Now, everywhere in the country people are carrying on their day to day life with confidence and full security and with a hope for bright future.

New phase a panacea for Saur gains

By Ghaus Amer

Since the triumphant emergence of the glorious Saur uprising and namely after its new evolutionary phase the hopes and union of the entire toiling masses have been strengthened and we have gladly been counting on the all-out support and cooperation of the various social and national forces and groups in the country.

We have always been confident of the correct understanding and selfless and disinterested aids of our neighbour and great friend the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community and progressive countries. The support and optimism of all the conscientious and toiling peoples of the world have always been with us and with our right position.

All the progressive, non-committed and Muslim governments and states, the liberation movements and progressive organisations recognise our righteousness and the gains of the Saur Revolution and the legality of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's government.

The result of the works accomplished reflect in the gradual creation of new relations, namely respectful relations and mutual confidence, cooperation and brotherly and equal cooperation among all national and patriotic forces of Afghanistan.

As a result of this work alone, the creation of the National Fatherland Front in itself is at the same time a clear reflection of the high level of such relations. Now we are beginning the execution of the future tasks, namely the preparatory task for the organisational arrangements of the unity of national and patriotic forces of Afghanistan.

With regard to this subject I would like to touch on some theoretical and practical aspects of the issue of consolidation and development of unity and patriotic union of all national and democratic classes and strata and the progressive forces of the Afghan society.

You might be well aware that the principled necessity and practical possibility of achieving unity of

the vast masses of the people in our country emanates from the historical stage and from the essence of national and democratic nature of Saur Revolution. The essence of the Saur Revolution necessitates this want and order of history. The reality is that our revolution has not taken place with the aim of transfer of the power and rule of one privileged class to another upper crust or to change a series of individual and isolated rulers with another group of the kind. The realisation of this truth of Saur Revolution is the most important and vital issue.

Our revolution has taken place in the name of the people and for their interests toward a better life for every toiling family and the progress and welfare of all our toiling people. Particularly its new phase like a panacea for safeguarding the Saur gains came to the masses as a boon.

To achieve these lofty humanitarian and noble objectives requires the active and conscious participation of the vast and broad strata of toiling masses. These toiling strata of the society makes it possible and provides for the realisations of transformations anticipated by the revolutionary government their energy and work.

In other words, the nature of the national and democratic revolution too lies in this if its major characteristic i.e. the achievement of national progress of the country through deep and consistent democratic changes in the economic, social and political spheres with the wide participation of the masses of the people are taken into view. The realisation of the premeditated changes would be in the interest of the overwhelming majority of the people and above all, the toilers, only a handful of feudals, a very small circle composed of the representatives of the old and historically outcast forces, spies and stooges of imperialism and reaction of the region,

who upon the instruction of their masters are making deals with the freedom, independence and territorial integrity of our country in this or that foreign country, or in other words those who have lost their boundless privileges and together with it have lost the possibility of suppression oppression, plunder and exploitation of the vast masses of the people, are antagonising the national and democratic transformations, and with this attitude of the black and decadent reaction they isolate themselves from the people and oppose the patriots of the country, and finally are doomed to frustration and despair.

As it is known to all, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in its basic documents prior to wresting of political power, has evaluated the future revolution of Afghanistan at this historical stage as a national and democratic uprising.

While evaluating the character of our revolution, prior to all it must be pointed out that this revolution as a whole is responsive to the wants and objective needs of the development of our society i.e. the toiling people of Afghanistan. This characteristic of the Saur Revolution is clearly reflected in the thesis of the Central Committee on the event of the second anniversary of Saur Revolution. It is said however, that the Saur Revolution took place as a result of long and protracted struggles of the toiling masses toward real freedom from the bonds of feudal and despotic domination. This could be further invigorated by the correct solution of all issues and the attraction of fresh forces and new energy in the task of deepening and growth of Saur Revolution, advancement of Afghanistan towards progress and blossoming and expansion of the foundation of social revolution. On the other hand this fact would make it possible for all the toilers and patriotic forces to seek their worthy place and

the reflection of their desires in the revolutionary socio-economic system established and developed as the result of the Saur Revolution and in the constructive work to build the new and flowering Afghanistan.

The best organisational form of unity of all national and real patriotic forces and their related organisations is the National Fatherland Front. This front is the assured and tested organisation of the masses of people on the basis of national and democratic aspirations which is confirmed by the revolutionary theory, the historical experience of the world's revolutionary movements and also by the political experience of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the revolutionary movement of the country.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan in its long and heroic struggle against the feudal monarchy and dictatorship of lords, bourgeoisie, and land lords of Daoud proved the fact that the historical and the righteous inheritors of the best, the worthiest and the most praiseworthy traditions of national liberation struggles, constituent monarchy and anti-imperialist are the patriotic forces of our beloved and ancient Afghanistan. The efforts made by the people of Afghanistan for unity, cooperation and joint work and struggle for the country's freedom and independence, for its blossoming and progress always form the inalienable part of these historical traditions.

These struggles have strong roots in the depth of the centuries and especially in the stage when our people heroically struggled against the British colonial aggression, and came out with flying colours. This victory not only emanated from the endeavours and sacrifices of our fathers but their joint and decisive resistance against the aggressors on the basis of loyalty to the beloved homeland, cooperation and understanding for the sake of the common task, played the decisive role.

Moscow's view on change of leadership in Washington

By Spartak Beglov, APN Political Correspondent

The Soviet public reaction to statements made by the new chiefs of the State Department and the Pentagon at hearings in the Senate Committees, giving a clue to the future US foreign policy and military strategy, has much in common with the feelings of concern any anxiety among many observers in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. If even the very moderate and mainly pro-American politicians in Western Europe find in these statements an open proclamation of a "policy of strength" in every direction, what then can be said of those who have always been prime targets and victims of this policy?

Of course, there is a category of optimistic observers who recommend making a distinction between the words uttered by the new leaders to please US groups on the extreme right and the actual intentions and future deeds of the new chiefs. It is recalled, in particular, that Ronald Reagan was very bellicose at the height of the election campaign when he needed votes on the Right wing of US society and that he patiently tried to change his image of "a man of war"

to that of a "man of peace" towards the end of the campaign to calm down the scared people in other sectors of American society.

By analogy, some are apt to believe that Alexander Haig indulged in tough talk on the eve of inauguration, in order to win Senators' votes, while reserving the right to realism and flexibility in his practical policy.

But what is said cannot be unsaid. No matter how much I would like to believe the optimists, the Senate records already contain Haig's words that "there are things more important than peace", the reference being to the nuclear war alternative. The Senate hearings, as well as other pronouncements made by the new men, suggest that preference for nuclear intimidation of the Soviet Union, for a part in the arms race over SALT talks, for a "big stick" policy in relation to the fighting patriots in El Salvador and in relation to Nicaragua, Cuba and other Latin American countries, pre-

ference for direct military intervention in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf.

The West European members of the Atlantic Alliance entertained the illusion that the former NATO Supreme Commander in Europe would become their "man in Washington", but to their horror the mouthpieces of the new Administration showed themselves least of all inclined to reckon with the main post-war achievement of European politics—the structure of detente and the vital stakes in East-West advantageous cooperation, that is, with all that makes Europe an island of stability in our turbulent world. Some of the observers, such as the West German Frankfurter Rundschau, have reason to see in Haig's intentions a desire to make the allies "look at the world through tank sights".

Certainly, the Soviet Union is not going to follow this example, and this time, too, will not join those wishing to bury detente. Whoever—optimist

ts or pessimists—wins in the ultimate prediction of the new Administration's course, Soviet policy will stay firmly tied to facts. If the new Administration wishes to cooperate in strategic arms limitation, it will find the Soviet side ready and determined to go ahead. If the Americans have not panicked so much as to throw overboard all the positive things achieved earlier in the development of mutually advantageous relations in many spheres, including the economy, the Soviet Union, as it has repeatedly emphasized, is ready to restore and increase this common property.

Those international observers are close to the truth who recommend to bear in mind the following three main points of Soviet policy towards the USA:

First, Any stake on military superiority over the Soviet Union is pointless, hopeless and dangerous. Significantly enough, it was in those words that the two US Ambassadors who succeeded each other in Moscow Malcolm Toon and Thomas Watson almost simultaneously warned the new Administration. (Continued on page 3)

BEST COPY

Ninety one apartments given to workers' families

The first complex of residential quarters called as "Ziaristonka Mena" consisting of ninety-one apartments in nine blocks has recently been put at the disposal of deserving homeless families in the capital city.

In revealing the above, Assadullah Piyam, the Kabul Mayor in an interview with the reporter of Kabul New Times said: For the purpose of providing residential quarters for all the homeless residents of Kabul city and at the time implementing the Master Plan of Kabul City the Kabul Municipality Corporation from the inception of victorious Saur Revolution till now have completed thirteen residential quarters for distribution to the homeless citizens in the capital city, of which I can name the Kāhman Mena first and second part, Khushal Mena first and second part, third part of Khair Khana Mena, Wazirabad Mena, third part of Parwan Mena and Taimani projects so far completed and were distributed among the deserving persons.

During the year 1358, the Kabul Mayor further added, the residential quarter by the name of Ziaristonka Mena was undertaken by this organisation. This project was built on an area of 31300 square metres in the third part of Karta Parwan to be distributed among the needy and deserving families against a reasonable rent. The project has been designed in such a way to provide the proper and modern city living condition to its occupants. The foundation stone of this project was laid during the first half of last year and its construction work was completed within a little over one year and recently been officially opened by Abdurrahshid Arian Member of PDPA CC, Member of Revolutionary Council, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Attorney General. So far sixty percent of the apartment is being distributed to the workers and another forty percent is being distributed to the low-rank government officials. Those received apartments have no house of their own in the city. The Kabul Municipal Corporation intends to prepare the ground for readying more such residential quarters in the near future and it hopes to construct at least one similar residential complex in two years interval.

Assadullah Piyam further added that in order to find the real deserving persons the municipality prepared a special form for the families. These forms had to pass from the related official channels and necessary certification were required by these channels and then the form is handed to the special co-

mmission assigned for the purpose of assessing the deserving persons. In distribution of apartments priority were given to the deserving worker families.

He further added, that the Ziaristonka Mena project has been built in a single storey and on modern system, each apartment in addition to the living rooms consisting of two rooms, three rooms, and four rooms, has a kitchen, modern toilet, and a godown which in any way are suitable and can solve the primary needs of each family.

The rent for a two-room apartment is being fixed

400 afs., for three rooms afs. 600, and for the four rooms afs. 800, and accordingly another afs. 100, afs. 150, and afs. 200 are being received from the families as maintenance fee which is very reasonable.

The overall construction cost of Ziaristonka Mena is afs. 7,316,136, which is being borne from the developmental budget of the municipality, and our assessment has shown that the final cost of each apartment come to an average of afs. 80,000 in which the cost of the land is not included. The estimated cost

only include the material used and the wages of the personnel worked on the project, he added.

The Kabul Municipality with its large organisational set up consisting of 6,000 administrative and technical officials and workers is in the service of the citizens day and night and actively endeavour to provide suitable living condition and modern housing system for the Kabul citizens and it hopes that in the near future it would be able to further solve the problems of housing through preparing new residential quarters in the city, Assadullah Piyam concluded.

FAO group urges action on protectionism in world meat trade

ROME— All countries have been called on to ease protectionism in world meat trade and to liberalize imports of animal products by an inter-governmental group of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

The Intergovernmental Group on Meat, comprising government and industry representatives from both importing and exporting countries, gathered in Rome recently to review the world meat situation and to make recommendations on livestock development and trade. Observers from the European Economic Community and various international agencies, including GATT, UNCTAD and The World Bank, took part in the meeting.

The group considered that protectionist tendencies in world meat trade constituted a major constraint on trade expansion and export earnings. It called on all countries, especially developed ones, to refrain to the maximum extent possible from imposing any new tariff or non-tariff barriers on livestock products, particularly from developing countries, and to strive to improve access to their markets for these products.

The group recommended that in adjusting their livestock policies countries pay special attention to avoiding adverse effects of trade distortions on world markets. It agreed to keep watch on developments in protectionism, and to examine ways of promoting trade in animal products, particularly cattle, sheep, and goat meat, among developing countries on regional and inter-regional levels. The Group acted on the basis of a FAO report which stated that market protection in the livestock sector had shown a rising trend in recent decades, especially in northern market economy countries, and

that annual expenditures on price support for animal products in the developed market economies had reached over US\$10 billion in 1979/80. The study found that traditional flows in international trade had been distorted, export earnings of low-cost producing countries had been adversely affected and livestock development efforts in developing countries had been checked.

Reviewing the world meat situation in 1980, the Group noted that the expansion in global meat production had further slowed, especially as regards pig and poultry meat. Meat demand had remained relatively strong in the developing countries, eastern Europe and the USSR but weakened in the developed market economies, especially in North America. The volume of trade had declined in 1980 with sharply lower shipments of beef from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina. Increased sales of western European meat in international mar-

kets at prices generally below those on domestic markets together with larger sales of meat from Brazil had been major features of international meat trade in 1980.

Looking ahead to 1981, the Group concluded that the long-standing expansion in meat output was likely to halt in 1981. Output of beef would recover slightly while that of pig meat would decline. Export supplies from current production would probably decrease with stocks being drawn upon to higher import requirements, especially from oil-exporting developing countries, the USSR and eastern Europe. Higher prices were expected in international trade.

Mr. C. O. Keller, Sarmiento of Argentina served as chairman of the group, a subsidiary of FAO's Committee on Commodity Problems and whose members nations together account for about 75 percent of world meat production and 95 percent of trade.

Moscow's view on change of ...

(Continued from page 2) ion against any reckless attempt to impose on the USSR a new round of the arms race.

Second. Only observance of the principles of equality and equal security, respect for each other's mutual interests, can help the two countries in their joint search for mutually acceptable solutions both in bilateral relations and on a global scale.

Third. The pivot of Soviet-American relations is limitation of strategic arms. Each new step along that road makes the prevention of nuclear war more real; simultaneously opening up before the world the prospect for going over to practical dis-

armament measures. Any one taking a decision that holds up or throws back the process of limitation, assumes the enormous burden of responsibility to his own and any other people.

Some people are too obvious in their striving to

VIENNA, Jan. 24, (Tass) —"Ghazi Hussein, permanent representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Vienna, has stated here that the decision of the Israeli government to build three more settlements on the occupied Arab territory is a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter.

"The arbitrary act", he said, "is leading to a further deterioration in relations between the Israelis and the Arabs and is further exacerbating the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

The Nedvetsky's family tradition

By Yuri Shnitnikov

"V. Nedvetsky. Milling-machine operator and adjutor. Member of the CPSU." The above refers to two workers at the Leningrad Metal Plant Association. Both of them have the highest professional qualification and both work in the chief production engineer's department.

Vyacheslav and Valery Nedvetsky are father and son. The father is 55, and the son 31 years of age. They don't resemble each other very much, the son is taller than the father but the father has broader shoulders.

Here is what Valery says of his father:

"From childhood I have always seen him cheerful, just, and full of optimism. At home, it was clear to everyone that he was satisfied with his work, and, judging by the behaviour of his friends from the plant when they came to see him, it was clear that he enjoyed the respect of his fellow workers. It was quite natural that my father became a model for me."

The Leningrad Metal Plant is a production association which manufactures the largest hydraulic and steam turbines in the world for power stations in the Soviet Union and 30 more countries. Together with the socialist countries, France, the Argentine, Canada, and Finland are on the list of purchasers of its commodities. The most recent achievement of the turbine manufacturers is the creation of a unique 1,200,000 kw-t-capacity steam turbine.

Specialists know that technically, the most difficult aspect of turbine manufacture is the machining of the turbine rotor blades. The last stage of the operation, that is, grinding, requires very precise performance of specialist machines and virtuoso skill on the part of the workers. That is precisely the type of work Vyacheslav Nedvetsky has been doing for many years.

The more sophisticated the machine, the more time it requires for its adjustment and preparation for work. And though there are many good machine-operators at the plant no one can compare with Nedvetsky Sr. in machine adjusting. Even the engineers recognise this rare talent and trust him, a worker, with the job of a technologist when it is a question of introducing new machinery into production.

There are quite a number of workers at the plant who were Nedvetsky's pupils and had mastered the profession of milling — machine operator under his guidance. If a shop is going through reconstruction of the technological process, if a comrade's machine starts stalling, Nedvetsky is sure to come in. If need be, he is willing to stay behind even after his shift is over to help out. He does so voluntarily without any mercenary interest. What moves him to do that?

"I feel a profound satisfaction when I'm able to be useful to my comrades, to the department, and to the plant," said Vyacheslav. "I'm sure that my personal interest in mastering new machinery coincides with the interests of the entire production association which wants to see the machinery working normally and not standing idle. While I was still a young man I noticed that was the way my older comrades, who were Communists, reasoned and acted. I appreciated their attitude towards their work and so I, too, decided to become a member of the Party."

"But you are entitled to additional pay when you work overtime and outside plant duties aren't you?"

"I do get extra pay for rapidly mastering new machinery, the whole department gets a bonus, part of which comes to me. The fulfilment of the production quota ahead of time also brings us a collective bonus. The plant often sends me as a specialist in my line on business trips abroad where I can see new machinery. When I was in need of better living conditions the trade union committee gave my family a new flat in a house built by the association. So, you see, I get both moral and material reward for my work."

Gradually the interests of the father were adopted by the son. After graduating from a secondary school, Valery Nedvetsky decided that he was most interested in the profession of milling-machine operator, so he enrolled at the vocational school at the metal plant. He asked those responsible for providing the school graduates with jobs to sent him to the department of the chief production engineer where his father was working.

Nedvetsky Jr. began to work at the department at a time when a new stage had just been started in blade production: they

had begun to replace the old equipment with machines with programmed control. This technical reconstruction promised to boost labour productivity but at the same time required enhanced skill on the part of the workers and attracted new specialists into the department. It was not only the engineers department's party organisation took upon itself a great share of the work on implementing new machinery and forming a group of workers capable of learning to operate it in a short time. Member of the Party bureau, Vyacheslav Nedvetsky, was made personally responsible for the work.

Like his father, Valeri made the interests of the workers in his department his own and finally made the decision of joining the CPSU. The Communists in the department unanimously gave their support to Nedvetsky Jr.

"I had my doubts at the time," said Vyacheslav. "I thought perhaps it was a bit early for Valery to join the Party. I wondered whether he was ready to shoulder the duties of a Communist. Now I see I had no need to worry. I'm quite satisfied and even proud of Valery."

Today, the son has become as qualified a worker as the father. Vyacheslav himself believes that Valery can do the same type of work he does at the machine. For instance, both the father and son are presently doing a very difficult job—they are machining rotor blades for hydroturbines for the Nizhne Kamsk hydropower stations. The metal plant has pledged to fulfil the order ahead of schedule, i.e., for the opening of the 26th Congress of the CPSU (February 23, 1981).

Working with new machines and advanced technology has taught the father and son to think constantly of the future, to raise their qualifications constantly. The son is studying at the Institute attached to the Metal Plant. He is a fourth year student and will soon become a fullfledged engineer.

Nedvetsky Jr. has won the respect of his comrades at work and in the Party. He was elected Party group organiser. In working with people the experience and advice of his father helped him out many times.

It is not simply family ties and shared outlook that bind these two working men together. Everyone who knows the Nedvetskys speaks of them with great warmth. Stanislav Pyatnitsky, Assistant Secretary of the Association's Party Committee said the following about them: "You can always rely on the Nedvetskys when you are doing a serious job. I envy the father who has brought up such splendid sons."

Pyatnitsky made no mistake when he spoke in the plural—there is one more Nedvetsky—22-year-old Igor, Valery's brother. He is also a milling-machine operator and has graduated from the same vocational school as Valery and also worked in the same department. Now he is serving in the Soviet Army. "When I return, I would like to work together with you again, Father", he said when he left. They will be happy to take him back at the plant.

VIENTIANE, Jan. 24, (ADN).— The foreign ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has protested against repeated incidents on the Lao-Thai border when Lao vessels on the river Mekong had been fired at. A spokesman has told a press conference in Vientiane that such acts were in flagrant contradiction to the aspirations of the two peoples for good-neighbourly relations.



Evening sitting of vill age women in Desesti commune in Bulgaria.

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AVAILABLE

USSR, India sign protocol on cooperation in irrigation

NEW DELHI, Jan. 24, (Tass).— A Soviet-Indian protocol on cooperation in the field of irrigation has been signed in the Indian capital. The programme which was adopted at a meeting of the working group of the intergovernmental Soviet-Indian commission on economic, scientific and technical cooperation envisages that the Soviet Union will render assistance to India in laying canals and in building viaducts, dykes and dams. The government of India devotes much attention to developing irrigation, and to combatting severe droughts which inflict a considerable damage to the economies of a whole number of states. R. M. Shroff, secretary of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, said in an interview with a Tass correspondent. She emphasised that India's fruitful and mutually beneficial cooperation with the USSR, which has made great strides in the development of desert and arid lands on the basis of utilisation of newest achievements of science and technology, opens new prospects in this direction.

Symposium on Palestinian's situation

BRUSSELS, Jan. 24, (Tass).— An international symposium has opened in the Belgian capital to discuss the situation of Palestinians on Israeli-occupied lands. The symposium is sponsored by the Arab League, the Belgian Society of the Friends of Palestine, and the Belgian Parliament Association for European-Arab cooperation, with the assistance of Arab ambassadors accredited in Brussels.

The symposium is being attended by various European organisations which support the just struggle of the Arab Palestinian people, progressive Israeli, Arab and Palestinian figures, including the mayors of Hebron and Khalkhul Fahd Kawasmeih and Mohammad Milhem, who have suffered from the arbitrary actions of occupants, being illegally expelled from their homeland.

Scientific expeditions in Antarctic

LENINGRAD, Jan. 24, (Tass).— More than 1,500 kilometres by snow of central Antarctic regions to be covered by a sledge- and-caterpillar train that left the Soviet Mirny observatory on the shore of the Davis Sea. Four heavy trucks trailing dwelling houses and scientific laboratories on runners are on their way to the intracontinental "Pionerskaya" station, and then to the area of the so-called "Cupola-C" where the southern geomagnetic pole is located, it is said in a radiogramme that was received in Leningrad last Thursday.

At the "Pionerskaya" station Soviet glaciologists will continue a through drilling of the ice shield of the antarctic, and at the geomagnetic pole they will carry out super-precise measurement of the secular motion of the magnetic field of the planet. Australian colleague Ross Walsh is taking part in the Soviet polar expedition.

The leaders of the Soviet antarctic expedition told a Tass correspondent that the expedition, is one that began in a series of summer research routes which are carried out in accordance with the

"Pravda" on results of Suzuki's tour

MOSCOW, Jan. 24, (Tass).— The Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki's tour of ASEAN countries indicates that Japan is drawn deeper and deeper into the U.S. dangerous world strategy where it is assigned the role of the main force in Asia to keep and consolidate Washington's political and military control over the region, Yuri Vdovin writes in Pravda. Commenting on the results of the tour, he emphasises that official circles and the press regard it as the beginning of a new stage in developing and strengthening Japan's relations with the region.

During the tour it was pointed out that by strengthening relations with the ASEAN, Japan will thereby not only promote the development of those countries but will also lay the foundation for a stable growth of its own economy in future. The author points out. "Thus, the ASEAN countries were told that they are equal partners of Tokyo and not at all a milch cow which, as portrayed by a cartoonist from the Hongkong journal 'Far Eastern Economic Review', is being fed by one Japanese and intensively milked by another."

The emphasis on the economic aspects of Suzuki's tour, the commentary says, was laid in order to leave in the shade another important if not the main aim of it—to show that Japan, possessing an immense economic might, substituting the USA, and assisting it will from now on play an increasing political and military role in Asia and in other parts of the world. To prepare the ASEAN countries for that was the paramount task of the tour.

In his speeches in the five Asian capitals, Suzuki invariably stated that Japan "will not become a military power" and following that he added without fail that it will use the Japanese-U.S. security treaty still more effectively and improve the defence might, the commentator points out. In so doing, the Japanese Prime Minister passed in over in silence that the ruling LDP, of which he is the head, is pressing in an increasingly insistent manner for a revision of the country's

fundamental law and abrogation of article nine which proclaims renunciation of war and armaments. "Suzuki's assurances as to 'striving for peace' run counter to the practice of his government, for example, to attempts at setting the countries of ASEAN and Indochina against one another and to prevent normalization of the situation and good-neighbourliness in South-East Asia."

Soviet aid goods distributed

AIBAK, Jan. 24, (Bakhtar).— Students of the primary and high school of Aibak, centre of Samangan province and officials and wage-earners of provincial departments benefited from the relief supplies of the friendly country of the Soviet Union last Thursday.

Distribution of the same goods continues.

THE SOVIET ECONOMY IN 1980

MOSCOW, Jan. 24, (Tass).— Industrial output in the Soviet Union grew 3.6 per cent in 1980 as compared with the previous year. This is stated in a report issued yesterday by the central statistical board of the USSR. The report sums up the results of the fulfilment of the state economic and social development plan of the USSR in 1980.

Labour productivity rose in 1980 by 2.0 per cent.

Produced in 1980 were 1,295,000 million KMT hours of electric power, 603 million tons of oil, 435,000 million cubic metres of gas, 716 million tons of coal, 148 million tons of steel, 103 million tons of finished ferrous-rolled stock.

The amounts of goods produced and instruments, means of automation and computing engineering, farm machinery, sewon goods, assorted tableware, furniture, and some other types of products manufactured exceeded the annual plan, the report says.

At the same time the report says that the production of coal, finished ferrous rolled stock, mineral

US advisers in Honduras

SAN JOSE, Jan. 24, (Tass).— Thirty six U.S. advisers have arrived recently in Honduras to take part in training the army of that central American state for an incursion into neighbouring el Salvador. They are specialists in military communications, logistical support and anti-guerrilla warfare.

This was reported Wednesday by the Honduras coordination committee of solidarity with the people of el Salvador.

"Simultaneously", the statement of the committee, which was made public here, says, "large consignments of munitions have started arriving in Honduras from the United States, to be further shipped to the anti-national regime of el Salvador."

Containers with the U.S.-made weaponry are first taken by ships to the city of Puerto Cortes on the Honduras Caribbean coast, and then dispatched to the airports of Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula. There the containers are put aboard U.S. "Hercules" planes and airlifted to el Salvador in nighttime.

fertilisers, metal-cutting machine tools, freight cars, workable timber, cement, and individual types of fabrics and a number of other goods fell greatly. In other goods fell short of the plan.

Total yield of grain in 1980 amounted to 189.2 million tons, 10 million tons more than in the previous year. The year 1980 saw the highest yield of raw cotton—9.36 million tons. The production of

Chemical weapons should be banned

MOSCOW, Jan. 24, (Tass).— One gets the impression that western countries, above all the United States, are avoiding speedy conclusion of the working out of a convention on the ban of chemical weapons, "Sovetskaya Rossiya" writes.

Ever more information appears about the intentions of the United States, specifically, to perfect chemical weapons, to widen their production and to compel its allies to do the same.

"The Soviet Union declares consistently for precluding the possibility of supplementing the arsenals of states with new types and systems of mass destruction weapons," the newspaper stresses. "The USSR suggests that all-embracing international agreement should be concluded for the purpose. But no progress is achieved in the solution of this question because of the negative stand of western states that wish to preserve the possibility for creating absolutely new means of destruction, obviously in the hope of ch-

CALL BY POLISH WAR VETERANS

WARSAW, Jan. 24, (Tass).— A meeting of war veterans, former Polish soldiers and officers who

Bureau of WPC Presidium meets

ANTANARIVO, Jan. 24, (Tass).— More than 90 delegates from forty countries of the world will examine the results of the activity of the World Peace Council (WPC) and the national movements, outline prospects and a programme for action for 1981 and the new decade at the session of the bureau of the WPC Presidium, which has opened here yesterday.

The session will analyse the disarmament problem as well as examine the demand of the developing states for the establishment of a new international economic order and introduction of control over the activity of transnational corporations.

Special attention will be devoted to the questions pertaining to the struggle for the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf.

fought in the Soviet army's ranks against Fascist Germany took place here. They discussed the present state of affairs in the country and the participation of war veterans in activities aimed at normalising the socio-political life in the Polish People's Republic.

The participants in the meeting adopted an address to the Polish people. The address says, in particular: We the veterans of war against Fascist invaders, we Polish citizens who fought in the ranks of the Soviet army and Soviet partisan detachments under the motto "for your and our freedom", active participants in the rehabilitation of Poland out of ruins are addressing all the Poles to whom the motherland, its socialist development and

international prestige are dear, to rally ranks in the name of achieving the normalisation of the socio-political and economic situation in the country and to issue a rebuff to the intrigues of anti-socialist forces in Poland.

The anti-socialist element subversive activity and the growth of tension, the address emphasises, are directed against measures for the restoration of the principles of social justice in Poland, against the establishment of normal working rhythm in the national economy.

The war veterans are calling on all the patriots of the motherland to keep tranquility and reason, and to unite in the striving for a bright socialist future of Poland.

Testing range for forecasting earthquake

ALMA ATA, Jan. 22, (Tass).— All the known types of apparatuses for registering portents of earthquakes have been brought together at a testing range near Alma Ata (Kazakhstan), which was commissioned in the north Tien Shan mountains. The range for forecasting strong earth tremors occupies more than 30 thousand square kilometres.

The range is complete with seismic stations and geophysical observatories and stations for monitoring the fluctuations of the level and the gaseous and chemical composition of subterranean waters at depths of up to three thousand metres, the variations of the planets magnetic field, telluric currents and other physical phenomena. The measurements of microdisplacements of individual blocks of the earth's crust are done by lasers.

The testing range is located in a zone of very high seismic activity. Over the past one hundred years, several earthquakes registering up to ten points on the 12-point scale took place there. Up to one thousand tremors are registered there every year.

Academician Zhakan Erzhanov who heads the national institute of seismology, which manages the testing range, told Tass that Kazakhstan scientists had started developing on automated system to process the data obtained from the complex of earthquake portents with the help of computer technology. The system will employ instrumentation devised in the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union.

He said that seismology were planning to embark forerunners of earthquakes, also. Cases are known on a search of biological experts from Alma Ata when some species of animals drastically change their behaviour several hours before an earthquake. The scientists decided to keep constant watch

over the behaviour of snakes, ants, and various animals in those areas of the range where enhanced seismic activity has been registered recently.

Work related to determining the peculiarities of the reaction of human organism to seismic phenomena is also planned.

Decolonization Committee starts debate

U.N. Jan. 24, (ADN).— Granting independence to Namibia and doing away with the remnants of colonialism, Dr. Kurt Waldheim on Wednesday called the most important problems to be discussed by the U.N. decolonization committee. The U.N. Secretary-General said this opening this year's session of the body as whose chairman ambassador Frank O. Abdulah of Trinidad and Tobago was re-elected.

Abdulah pointed to South Africa's responsibility for the failure of the Geneva Namibia conference. He sharply condemned the new acts of aggression of the apartheid regime against Angola. South Africa was threatening world peace and international security, he said. The committee should submit to the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council effective proposals for a settlement of the Namibia issue. Ambassador Abdulah reiterated unqualified support for the South West Africa People's Organisation in its legitimate liberation struggle against the country's illegal occupation by South Africa.

LUANA, Jan. 23, (ADN) Air defence forces of the Angolan People's Army have downed over Angolan territory three helicopters and a fighter plane of the South African racist army. A communique of the defence ministry says that more helicopters and fighter planes of the aggressor had been forced to break away. The attack took place on 15 January.

TODAY'S RADIO

Following is the Radio Afghanistan's foreign program:

Language	Local Time	Khz
Urdu	18.00-20.00	60230 (49 m)
English	20.00-21.00	
(for Neareast)		
Russian	21.00-21.30	41065 (25 m)
Arabic	21.30-22.00	11085 (25 m)
Dari and Pashtu	22.00-22.30	17755 (16 m)
		17755 (16 m)
(for Europe)	23.30-23.00	17755 (16 m)
German	23.00-24.00	

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AFSOTR transportation company takes active part in export and import of commodities in the country. Photo shows a number of vehicles, part of the AFSOTR fleet. (Photo: Bakhtar)